

Mr. James Earl Ray, 65477
7475 Cockrill Bend Ind. Rd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1010

1/22/94

Dear Jimmy,

I fear that what the clipping you sent quotes Judge Brown as saying ^{represents} the ^{legal} ~~sole~~ actuality ever since MacRae's decision. In it he also said that guilt or innocence were immaterial, even if all the evidence we presented was to the contrary. We did then present evidence that exculpated you. That is why he used those words in his decision. I fear also that all the cock-and-bill stories ^{presented} since then have undermined your chances. However, I wonder why you do not say that Pepper says ^{only} he has "new evidence" that proves you ^{not} guilty. It was my understanding that is the only course remaining for you after MacRae. I know this Jowers story is supposed to be new evidence but from the first I ^{had} ~~have no~~ belief in it. I interviewed him and McCraw before Jim questioned them at the evidentiary hearings. Neither indicated anything like what since has been attributed to them. And based on what little I've read, the story just does not stack.

With regard to the clippings I used in writing Frame-Up, I gave them all to Jim Mesar. From the little I hear from him he is much too busy to be able to take the time to make a search of them for that N.Y. Times story, if in deed, he has the time to locate the batch of clippings themselves. But I'll send him a copy of your letter and of this in what I regard as the remote event he can readily locate the story you want.

The AP reporter whose stories I quoted was Bernard Gavzer.

There are ways in which you can get copies of it, from the paper and ^{from} innumerable libraries. These libraries have the Times on microfilm and they can make copies from it.

I suggest that you first write the Times. (I no longer know anyone there.) The address is 229 W. 43 St., the zip is 10036. Ordinarily the one to write is the Librarian.

In a library if you have the date you have the microfilm for that date checked. If not, the Times has an index and you can locate the date and the story from it. The time period would be narrow because Battle went on vacation and died the day he returned to his office from it. So, it would be after the date of the hearing and before he left on what I think was a two-week vacation. However, I think that even a student using a college or university library can find that story for you easily, under Battle's name, because there will not be that many listings of him for the relevant time period. While I do not know, I would guess that the library at Vanderbilt Univ., in Nashville, would have a good chance of having the index and the microfilms.

Because you can limit it to this short time period, I suggest that if you write the Times you be sure to indicate the time span. If the librarian or anyone in that office sees the search to be made is for a very narrow time period they may perhaps be more inclined to honor it if they are busy.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

